

Appln No. 09/112,774
Amdt. Dated October 3, 2003
Reply to Office action of August 15, 2003

3

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4. By this amendment, claims 1 and 3 have been amended and claim 2 has been cancelled. Therefore claims 1-4 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cane et al. (U.S. Patent 5,999,203) in view of Bagchi et al. (U.S. Patent 5,916,358). The rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation that the guillotine mechanism be detachable using snap fit components. Further claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation that the guillotine mechanism is slidably engaging a detachable threaded rod that is powered by said portable power supply. The threaded rod finds support in page 5 of the specification, the last two lines, which recite "...cutting mechanism 63 which traverses the platen by means of a rod 64 having a screwed thread...". The limitation of the rod being detachable finds support in the specification in both FIG. 8, and on page 6, lines 10-11, which recite "The cutting mechanism 63 is inserted into the platen base 62 by means of a snap fit via receptacle eg. 74."

The Examiner may assert that the use of worm-gear type drive mechanisms is well known. However the applicant respectfully submits that such mechanisms used as part of a detachable cutting mechanism of a camera system is both novel and non-obvious. The Examiner is referred to the field of the invention and to the background of the invention provided on pages 1 and 2 of the specification. As stated in the field of the invention, the present invention relates to a disposable camera. The last sentence of the background of the invention then states: "It would be further advantageous to provide for the effective interconnection of the sub components of a camera system." Thus, an object of the present invention is to reduce the costs of a disposable camera by making sub-components modular and detachable. The detachable guillotine mechanism described in amended claim 1, slidably engaging a threaded rod, is therefore designed to reduce the cost of the camera.

Appln No. 09/112,774
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4

The guillotine mechanism including a threaded rod drive component is a novel and non-obvious device that enables the entire print media cutting mechanism of the camera to be easily detached and conversely reattached to the camera. Disposable components of the camera could thus be detached from the guillotine mechanism; then the guillotine mechanism could be reused with new disposable components. Using a detachable threaded rod is a cost-effective but non-obvious method of making the entire guillotine mechanism, including its drive components, easily detachable from and replaceable in a disposable camera.

The detachable threaded rod using snap fit components is neither disclosed nor suggested in either Cane et al. or in Bagchi et al. The Examiner cites the cutting mechanism of Cane et al. as being detachable. However, the cutting mechanism of Cane et al. is only detachable in the sense that it is fixed to an upper portion of a replaceable paper cassette (350). The cutting mechanism itself of Cane et al. is not detachable from the upper portion of the paper cassette (350) using snap fit components. The disclosure in Cane et al. is thus very different from the modular and interconnecting camera of the present invention.

Claim 3 as amended includes the further limitation of snap fit receptacles that receive the threaded rod. The receptacles are clearly shown as element 74 in FIG. 8 of the specification. Such receptacles are also part of the novel and non-obvious components of an embodiment of the present invention that enable expensive components of a disposable camera to be saved and reused. The receptacles make it very easy to remove the entire guillotine mechanism by simply unclipping each end of the threaded rod.

Appln No. 09/112,774
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5

Conclusion

Claim 1 as amended includes features that are neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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